

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 2, 2018 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill; Steve May; David Sander; Stephen Ackerman (arrived 8:30)

Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Ian Bender; Dennis Gile, Fire Chief; Gerald Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

Bard Hill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Hill asked if there were any comments from the public, but there were none.

2. Other Business

Selectboard Organization

Mr. Hill explained that since Lincoln Bressor resigned, and he was chair, that meant that as vice-chair, Mr. Hill would be in charge of the meeting. He asked if we should appoint another chair, fill the vacancy, or not. He noted that the town’s charter stated that when a Selectboard member resigns, “the office shall become vacant and shall be filled by the Selectboard.” He was concerned that we may be in violation of the charter if we left the position vacant until the March election. He also said that it was much more important that all four members of the board continue to come to the meetings.

Mr. Sander suggested that for such a short duration it should be left vacant, but agreed that all members should make every effort to attend the meetings. Mr. May was concerned about the quorum issue as well if someone were to get sick or need to take care of a family member.

It was agreed that for the next three meetings it did not seem to be necessary to fill the vacancy. Mary Houle said that if the board were to fill the vacancy, it may appear to give that person an endorsement if they were running for that seat.

Mr. May noted he would be willing to serve as chair if needed.

The Manager was directed to obtain an opinion regarding whether or not the filling of the vacancy at this time was a significant issue.

Southview Resident Concerns

The Manager explained that he had been recently corresponding with the residents of Southview about some neighborhood concerns they had. A copy of the most recent email with that statement was provided to the Selectboard. The concerns listed were:

- 1 • Old Water tower removal – the shed near our entrance and the large round one.
- 2 • Landscaping of the new water tank.
- 3 • Unfinished area near the new water tower.
- 4 • Replacing old Southview guardrails and assuring a consistent guardrail style/color throughout
- 5 the Southview neighborhood.

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7 The discussion began with the removal of the old water tanks. The Manager explained that these were
8 meant to be removed upon completion of the new tank, but were deleted from the scope of work due
9 to financial considerations. The Selectboard suggested trying to find someone who may want the
10 metal or have a use for the tank and if nothing developed then have a plan to remove the tank provided
11 funds are available.

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13 The landscaping at the new tank had partially failed. The area was mostly grassy with a few plantings.
14 The Manager explained that for some time there had been complaints that this was insufficient. He
15 and the Water Resources superintendent would develop a plan to address the failed plantings and
16 supplement with additional plantings this Spring.

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18 On the guardrails, the Manager explained that the residents requested that the existing guardrails,
19 which are over 30 years old in some places and rusting, be replaced with new rail. There was some
20 discussion on this and the potential cost and the immediate need. The Selectboard directed that a
21 town-wide inventory and ranking of guardrails to assess the condition and safety of existing rails, with
22 costs to address them.

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24 The Selectboard did not understand the undeveloped area near the tank, whether it was the parking
25 area or some other area and asked for clarification.

26 27 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

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29 The Manager noted the police report, and spoke of some construction continuing at the creamery site
30 and Cumberland Farms, but little else was happening.

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32 The Manager explained that the town had a recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) inspection on their
33 water capabilities for firefighting. The result was that now the lowest rating was a 05/5Y which was
34 revised from the previous rating system, but indicated better performance capabilities. Fire Chief
35 Dennis Gile said that ISO was impressed with what our capabilities were with the improvements to the
36 water system. The board wondered if there would be any price difference for homes in town and that
37 was not known. Chief Gile noted that homes more than 5 road miles from the station would be at a
38 rating disadvantage.

39 40 Approval of Minutes

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42 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2017 and was seconded by Mr.
43 May. The motion carried 3-0.

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45 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2017 and was seconded by Mr.
46 May. The motion carried 3-0.

47 48 Approval of Warrants

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50 Warrants were reviewed and approved.

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Executive Session

Mr. Hill explained that there was a need to discuss the Town Manager's performance evaluation in executive session.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to find that premature public knowledge about the Town Manager's performance evaluation would cause the town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Mr. May seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

At 8:40 PM Mr. Sander offered a motion to enter an executive session to discuss the performance evaluation, under section 1 VSA 313 (a)(5) with the Manager present, and Mr. May seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

At 8:55 PM Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular session. Mr. May seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

There was no further action taken.

3. Adjourn

Motion by Ackerman to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. May. So voted.